

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated March 23, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

No claims are hereby amended. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and claims 21-26 have been newly added. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 21-26 are now pending for prosecution on the merits. Reconsideration and reexamination is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pre-Grand Publication 2003/0168087 to Inui et al. (hereinafter *Inui*). Office Action at p. 2. Further, claims 7-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Inui* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,855,472 to Ravitts (hereinafter *Ravitts*). Office Action at p. 2. Finally, claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Inui* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,367,811 to Hosokawa et al. (hereinafter *Hosokawa*).

These rejections are respectfully traversed. A complete discussion of the Office's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here. Without conceding to the propriety of the Office's rejections, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, the Office will note, claims 1-20 have been cancelled, independent claim 21, and dependent claims 22-26 have been newly added.

New independent claim 21 recites a combination of elements including "a tub for accommodating dishes for washing; a sump housing receiving water for dishwashing, the sump housing coupled to a bottom of the tub; a wash motor mounted to an outer bottom surface of the sump housing and having a motor shaft extended into the sump housing by passing through the outer bottom surface of the sump housing from the wash motor; a wash pump located within the sump housing, the wash pump including: a pump case; and an impeller for pumping the water for dishwashing within the pump case, wherein the impeller is connected to an end of the motor

shaft; a sealing case upwardly extended from an inner bottom surface of the sump housing; a sealing cover fitted within the sealing case and penetrated by the motor shaft; and an air cap covering the sealing case and the sealing cover and penetrated by the motor shaft.”

Further, independent claim 21 recites that the air cap has a space therein for accommodating air, in order to prevent the water for dishwashing from being drawn into the sealing case. Support for the above combinations of elements set forth in claim 21 can be found at least in FIGs. 1-5 of the Specification, as originally filed. Applicant respectfully submits that the above combination of elements, set forth in the claim 21, is not disclosed or suggested by the references relied on by the Office.

The subject matter of claim 21 is directed to a dishwasher having a tub, a sump housing coupled to the bottom of the tub, a wash motor coupled to the bottom of the sump housing, a wash pump located in the sump housing and connected to the motor shaft. In addition, the dishwasher as recited in claim 21 includes a sealing cover and an air cap covering the sealing cover.

There is no teaching or suggestion in *Inui* of a motor shaft extending through the bottom of a sump housing, and a pump connected to the motor shaft within the sump housing, and the air cap within the sump housing to cover the sealing cover. *Inui* teaches that a tub 22, a sump 103, a pump 28 and an oil seal 46. *Inui* at FIG. 1 and 2. *Inui*, however, only discloses that the wash pump is placed outside the sump. *Id.* at FIG. 1. In addition, *Inui* fails to show a motor shaft extending within the sump and connecting directly to the wash pump. Furthermore, *Inui* fails to show a sealing case, which extends upward from the inner bottom surface of the sump housing, to receive the sealing cover. Accordingly, *Inui* wholly fails to teach or suggest the invention as recited in claim 21.

Likewise, none of *Inui*, *Ravitts*, or *Hosokawa*, individually or in combination teach or suggest the dishwasher as recited in claim 21. In detail, *Inui*, *Ravitts*, and *Hosokawa*, wholly fail to teach or suggest a dishwasher that includes a sump, a motor having a shaft passing through the bottom of the sump, a wash pump within the sump connected to an end of the shaft, a sealing cover, and an air cap covering the sealing cover to block off the washing water to leak into the sealing cover.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that new independent claim 21 clearly defines the present invention over the teachings of *Inui*, *Ravitts*, and *Hosokawa*, and is in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 21-26 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 21 and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claim 21.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

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